

Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DHA-02 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /076 W
----- 070815

R 041515Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7447

INFO A EMBASSY BONN 98

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 1129

EO 11652; GDS

TAGS: PFOR, DM

SUBJ: DEFECTION OF DAHOMEAN AMB POGNON

REF A. BRUSSELS 6975 (NOTAL) B. COTONOUA A-41 (NOTAL)

1. REF A REPORTED THE DEFECTION OF GRATIEN POGNON, DAHOMEY'S AMB TO THE BENELUX COUNTRIES, THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES AND TO THE UN AGENCIES IN GENEVA, TO AN OPPOSITION GROUP, "FRONT DE LIBERATION ET DE REHABILITATION DU DAHOMEY". EMBASSY HAD HEARD LOCALL THAT POGNON'S RESIGNATION WAS A PREEMPTIVE MOVE. THE DAHOMEAN GOVT HAD PLANNED TO RECALL POGNON AS WELL AS CERTAIN OTHER AMBASSADORS CONNECTED WITH THE OLD REGIME. ALSO REPORTEDLY SLATED FOR REMOVAL ARE AMBASSADORS JACQUES ADANDE (LAGOS), WILFRID DE SOUZA (PARIS) AND VIRGILE TEVOEDJRE (BONN). THE OTHER THREE DAHOMEAN AMBASSADORS INCLUDING TIAMOU ADJIBADE IN WASHINGTON, ARE SECURE FOR THE TIME BEING AS THEY HAVE MADE THE PROPER "REVOLUTIONARY NOISES."

2. THE FRONT DE LIBERATION ET DE REHABILITATION DU DAHOMEY IS NEW TO US. IT MOST PROBABLY CONSISTS OF THE BACKERS OF FORMER PRES EMILE DERLIN ZINSOU, WHO UP TO NOW HAVE
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BEEN REFERRED TO SIMPLY AS THE ZINSOUISTS.

3. COMMENT: THE PLAN TO REMOVE NON-"REVOLUTIONARY" AMBASSADORS, IF TRUE, IS A LOGICAL STEP IN THE GOVT'S PROGRAM, BEGUN LAST MARCH, TO PURGE THE CIVIL SERVICE. UNTIL NOW, DAHOMEY'S EM-BASSIES HAVE BEEN LEFT INTACT IN ORDER TO PROVIDE SOME CONTINUITY IN FACE OF THE RADICAL SHAKE-UP OF THE FORNMIN. CHESHES

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Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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06 JUL 2006

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To: STATE
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